

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /085 W

-----091916Z 087775 /45

R 091358Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6691

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TAAM/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 7106

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 3092

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KE

SUBJECT: MOI CHALLENGED FOR KANU VICE PRESIDENCY

REF: (A) NAIROBI 2821, (B) NAIROBI 2829

1. SUMMARY: AT PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 8
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION TAAITA ARAP TOWEETT ANNOUNCED HIS
CANDIDACY FOR KANU VICE PRESIDENCY IN NATIONAL PARTY
ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 3. ALTHOUGH MOI HAS NOT YET
OFFICIALLY DECLARED HIS CANDIDACY FOR NUMBER 2 PARTY
POSITION, TOWEETT CLEARLY HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD BY KIKUYU-
LED GROUP TO CHALLENGE MOI DIRECTLY. END SUMMARY.

2. FLANKED BY MPS KIIHIKA KIMANI, (WHO TOUCHED OFF THE
"CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION" CAMPAIGN WITH FIERY SPEECH AT
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NAKURU LAST SEPTEMBER) GEORGE ANYONA, AND 3 OTHERS,
TOWEETT ATTACKED INCUMBENT KANU LEADERSHIP, SPECIFICALLY
ACTING SECGEN MATANO, FOR FLOUTING ESTABLISHED PARTY
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS AND PROCEDURES. HE VOICED
CONFIDENCE THAT HE WOULD BE ELECTED.

3. COMMENT: TOWEETT IS A KIPSIGIS, ONE OF KALENJIN

GROUP OF TRIBES. BY PUTTING HIM UP TO CHALLENGE MOI (ALSO A KALENJIN), MOI'S ADVERSARIES AVOID POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE CRITICISM FOR ATTEMPTING TO DISPLACE KALENJIN GROUP FROM LEADERSHIP CIRCLE. ON OTHER HAND, TOWEETT HIMSELF IS NOT A MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURE. HE WAS DEFEATED IN RECENT ELECTION FOR CHAIRMAN OF KERICHO BRANCH OF KANU BY RELATIVE UNKNOWN WHO IS SYMPATHETIC TO MOI. CONSEQUENTLY, MOST OBSERVERS DO NOT NOW BELIEVE TOWEETT CAN DEFEAT MOI, ALTHOUGH SHIFTING ALLIANCES OR OTHER DEVELOPMENTS COULD ALTER CALCULATIONS BEFORE APRIL 3.

4. ONE OF POINTS MADE BY TOWEETT AT PRESS CONFERENCE WAS THAT ELECTION DATE HAD BEEN SET WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PREPARATORY MEETING OF KANU NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL AS REQUIRED BY PARTY CONSTITUTION. TOWEETT SAID HE WAS STILL TRYING TO GET ELECTION DATE POSTPONED, WAS UNDERDOG AND NEW-COMER, MORE TIME TO CAMPAIGN WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO HIM. FURTHERMORE, HIS GROUP IS STILL HOPING THAT HIGH COURT WILL INVALIDATE SIAYA BRANCH ELECTIONS (REF B), WHICH MIGHT PERMIT LUO ALLY OGINGA ODINGA TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN ELECTION MANEUVERING. AS MATTERS NOW STAND, HIGH COURT MAY NOT ISSUE DECISION BY APRIL 3.
MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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